

Under the Wire in the "Best Seller" Race

So far as 1922 is concerned the books that have been contending for popular favor during the last three or four months must be considered as having gone by the winning post. Actually, of course, the race is not entirely over, for many of the books that have been figuring in the contest will go on selling through the winter and early spring, and there is always the possibility that some one book, now perhaps comparatively obscure, will break out into a dazzling and unexpected success. There may be, for example, another "Lorna Doone." Blackmore's famous novel was an unknown straggler in the race for popularity the first year of its appearance. Indeed, it was a book that had never attained the dignity of being regarded as forgotten when a daughter of Queen Victoria married the Marquis of Lorne, and the British public disinterred it, thinking from its title that it might have something to do with the family of the bridegroom. Since then the Doone Valley of North Devon, which is the scene of the stirring tale, is yearly visited by tens of thousands who have been moved by the story of the great John Ridd, Lorna, and the sinister Carver Doone.

This paper is the third of a series dealing with the race of the autumn. The first, entitled "They're Off in the 'Best Seller' Race," appeared in the issue of the book and magazine section for August 27 last. At that time some of the books that have since been conspicuous had not yet started in the race. The second paper, "At the Half in the 'Best Seller' Race," appeared in the issue of October 15. The leaders at that date were, in order: "This Freedom," "Babbitt," "The Breaking Point," "The Glimpses of the Moon," "The Country Beyond" and "One of Ours." Other books that appeared frequently in the various lists from booksellers of that issue were "Robin," "Flowing Gold," "Fair Harbor," "The Tale of Triona," "The Shadow of the East," "Charles Rex," "Certain People of Importance," "Captain Blood," "Carnac's Folly," "Foursquare," "The Mother of All Living" and "Simon Called Peter."

Here follow the lists from various booksellers in response to the letters of inquiry sent out early in December. As was the case in both of the other articles dealing with the race they are printed in the order in which they were received.

Lycett's of Baltimore, Md.

1. This Freedom.
2. Babbitt.
3. The Tale of Triona.
4. Clair de Lune.
5. Fair Harbor.
6. In the Days of Poor Richard.

Hall's Book Shop, Boston, Mass.

1. This Freedom.
2. Robin.
3. The Cathedral.
4. Rough Hewn.
5. Fair Harbor.
6. One of Ours.

The Edward P. Judd Company, New Haven, Conn.

1. This Freedom.
2. Babbitt.
3. The Cathedral.
4. Certain People of Importance.
5. One of Ours.
6. Fair Harbor.

Edward J. Ervin, Washington, D. C.

1. Maria Chapdelaine.
2. This Freedom.
3. Babbitt.
4. If Winter Comes.
5. The Breaking Point.
6. Charles Rex.

Campion and Company, Philadelphia, Pa.

1. This Freedom.
2. Robin.
3. Head of the House of Coombe.
4. Simon Called Peter.
5. The Cathedral.
6. The Tale of Triona.

E. Higgins Company, Grand Rapids, Mich.

1. This Freedom.
2. Babbitt.
3. Rough Hewn.
4. Fair Harbor.
5. Carnac's Folly.

As the Autumn Novels Pass Under the Wire.

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| 1. This Freedom. | Hutchinson. | Little, Brown |
| 2. Babbitt. | Lewis. | Harcourt, Brace |
| 3. The Breaking Point. | Rinehart. | Doran |
| 4. One of Ours. | Cather. | Knopf |
| 5. The Country Beyond. | Curwood. | Cosmopolitan Book Co. |
| 6. Fair Harbor. | Lincoln. | Appleton. |
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- Pierce & Co., Springfield, Ohio.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. Babbitt.
 3. Certain People of Importance.
 4. The Breaking Point.
 5. The Country Beyond.
 6. The Glimpses of the Moon.
- Pettis Dry Goods Company, Indianapolis, Ind.**
1. The Country Beyond.
 2. The Breaking Point.
 3. Fair Harbor.
 4. Babbitt.
 5. If Winter Comes.
 6. Flowing Gold.
- Beecher, Kymm & Patterson, Kalamazoo, Mich.**
1. Babbitt.
 2. Certain People of Importance.
 3. The Breaking Point.
 4. One of Ours.
 5. This Freedom.
 6. Rough Hewn.
- Traver's Bookstore, Trenton, N. J.**
1. Flowing Gold.
 2. Broken Barriers.
 3. Charles Rex.
 4. This Freedom.
 5. Rough Hewn.
 6. A More Honorable Man.
- Morris Sanford Company, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. One of Ours.
 3. Babbitt.
 4. The Breaking Point.
 5. The Country Beyond.
 6. Vandermark's Folly.
- Yunker Brothers, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. The Breaking Point.
 3. The Country Beyond.
 4. Flowing Gold.
 5. Babbitt.
 6. In the Days of Poor Richard.
- Loveman, Joseph and Loeb, Birmingham, Ala.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. The Country Beyond.
 3. The Breaking Point.
 4. Certain People of Importance.
 5. Cappy Ricks Retires.
 6. Charles Rex.
- Waldman Brothers, Albany, N. Y.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. Certain People of Importance.
 3. Broken Barriers.
 4. The Glimpses of the Moon.
 5. The Breaking Point.
 6. December Love.
- Macauley Brothers, Detroit, Mich.**
1. Babbitt.
 2. This Freedom.
 3. The Cathedral.
 4. Fair Harbor.
 5. Certain People of Importance.
 6. The Breaking Point.
- Smith & Butterfield, Evansville, Ind.**
1. Babbitt.
 2. This Freedom.
 3. The Glimpses of the Moon.
 4. In the Days of Poor Richard.
 5. The Country Beyond.
 6. One of Ours.
- The Denver Dry Goods Company, Denver, Col.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. One of Ours.
 3. Babbitt.
 4. The Breaking Point.
 5. The Country Beyond.
 6. Cappy Ricks Retires.
- L. S. Ayers Company, Indianapolis, Ind.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. The Breaking Point.
 3. Babbitt.
 4. One of Ours.
 5. The Cathedral.
 6. Rough Hewn.
- Fred E. Woodward, Takoma Park, Md.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. Babbitt.
 3. The Breaking Point.
 4. Fair Harbor.
- Fred Harvey, Kansas City, Mo.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. One of Ours.
 3. Babbitt.
 4. Rough Hewn.
 5. Simon Called Peter.
 6. The Glimpses of the Moon.
- McClelland & Co., Columbus, Ohio.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. Babbitt.
 3. Robin.
 4. Rough Hewn.
 5. Captain Blood.
 6. The Country Beyond.
- The Burrows Brothers Company, Cleveland, Ohio.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. Simon Called Peter.
 3. Babbitt.
 4. One of Ours.
 5. Fair Harbor.
 6. The Breaking Point.
- Flowing Gold.**
- Gentle Julia.**

- R. H. White Company, Boston, Mass.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. The Breaking Point.
 3. Fair Harbor.
 4. The Mother of All Living.
 5. Robin.
 6. The Tale of Triona.
- D. H. Holmes Company, New Orleans, La.**
1. The Breaking Point.
 2. The Glimpses of the Moon.
 3. Babbitt.
 4. This Freedom.
 5. The Head of the House of Coombe.
 6. Simon Called Peter.
- S. Kann, Sons Company, Washington, D. C.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. The Breaking Point.
 3. The Country Beyond.
 4. Babbitt.
 5. If Winter Comes.
 6. Simon Called Peter.
- Johnson's Bookstore, Springfield, Mass.**
1. Babbitt.
 2. This Freedom.
 3. The Glimpses of the Moon.
 4. Fair Harbor.
 5. The Country Beyond.
 6. The Tale of Triona.
- Frank Appell, Denver, Col.**
1. This Freedom.
 2. One of Ours.
 3. The Breaking Point.
 4. Babbitt.
 5. The Cathedral.
 6. The Glimpses of the Moon.

The Y. M. C. A. in Action

A Review by STEWART T. BEACH.

SERVICE WITH FIGHTING MEN. An account of the work of the American Young Men's Christian Associations in the world war. Association Press.

CERTAINLY not the least of the controversies growing out of the world war has been that which grouped itself about the real service rendered by the Y. M. C. A. to the army, navy and Marine Corps, both at home and abroad. The wide range of criticism leveled at the organization runs the gamut from strongest condemnation to highest praise. According to this book, "Statements in letters in the files range all the way from: 'The whole Y. M. C. A. ought to be in hell,' to 'Without the Y. M. C. A. the doughboy would have been like a baby that had lost his mother.' Between these extremes every degree of praise and denunciation is to be found." The controversy which has arisen through the conflict of the allegations seems to find its most logical answer in the only direct defense which "Service With Fighting Men" has to offer. "All this (criticism) means that Y. M. C. A. workers and soldiers were human. The secretaries represented thirteen thousand different combinations of human virtues and weaknesses. Pride and humility, self-control and self-indulgence, patience and ill-temper, sympathy and prejudice, and all the other traits that make up men and women were in them all. . . . The soldiers too were human, and according to their dispositions and passing moods they blamed and praised both wisely and unwisely. Defects were condoned and trifles eulogized; good service denounced and extraordinary efforts dismissed as a matter of course."

Sober judgment must prevail in deciding that the Y. M. C. A. executed a beneficial and unforgettable service to the men both at home and abroad. In a way, this entire work is a defense of that service, though it is interesting to note that it makes no flagrant attempt at proselytism, a course dictated largely, no doubt, through the original conception which eventually grew into fourteen hundred pages of history, both narrative and documentary. "Service With Fighting Men" found its beginnings simply in making up a report, calculated to record Y. M. C. A. activities in the world war. Its growth represents the recognition by the editorial board in charge of its writing, of its place in literature as the history of a field hardly covered in any adequate manner. Welfare work represents a distinct branch of sociological science and the present history, though primarily satisfying its original purpose, in reality goes much further afield. Primarily, in an account of Y. M. C. A. work in

the world war and of the progress of social science in rendering humane service to military organizations, it serves in a general way as a history of the world from 1914 to 1919, considered from a sociological standpoint.

The Y. M. C. A. offered its services to the Government on the first day of the war. Its organization was marked by the same unpreparedness for the gigantic service it was forced to render as that which confronted the War and Navy Departments. And its task of bringing its staff to war efficiency forms almost an analogy to that of the Government during the early years of the war.

Service with the armies abroad presented its difficulties. First, and foremost, they concerned themselves with the personnel department. Men, and women too, must be selected who would best fill the gap which the "Y" found it its task to close. They must represent home and all of its many conveniences and comforts to the men in service. Then there were difficulties of transportation. At first, 60 per cent. of their requisitional necessities were transported, but with the increase in space necessary to the Government for carrying troops and their immediate needs in equipment, the space set aside for Y. M. C. A. needs was reduced to 20 per cent. of its actual necessities. Motor trucks were required for transport in France and these, when secured, were often requisitioned for use by the Government. Military needs came first and afterwards the personal comforts of the men.

Then there were the problems of providing entertainment and stores for the men, both in the field and on leave. The restricted rest areas were given into Y. M. C. A. charge as were the canteens, whose supervision was recognized by the Government as a necessity in the lives of the soldiers.

Personal opinion and comment have run rife in the controversy as to the real merits of the service, which the "Y" was able to give the soldiers, but this book, setting forth frankly and without the glow of imaginative, heroic coloring, the difficulties confronting the organization at the start from unpreparedness and the constantly shifting war situations, presenting, in the latter case, not a single problem, but a series of constantly changing problems, seems to provide the best defense possible. It is doubtful if any one, after reading it and digesting the magnitude of the field covered by the welfare work of the organization from Vladivostok and German East Africa to the training camps at home will ever speak again, with the deprecatory implication, of "that damned 'Y.'"